

Southwest Florida Basin Rule

Rule Development Workshop

July 27, 2005

What is a Basin Rule?

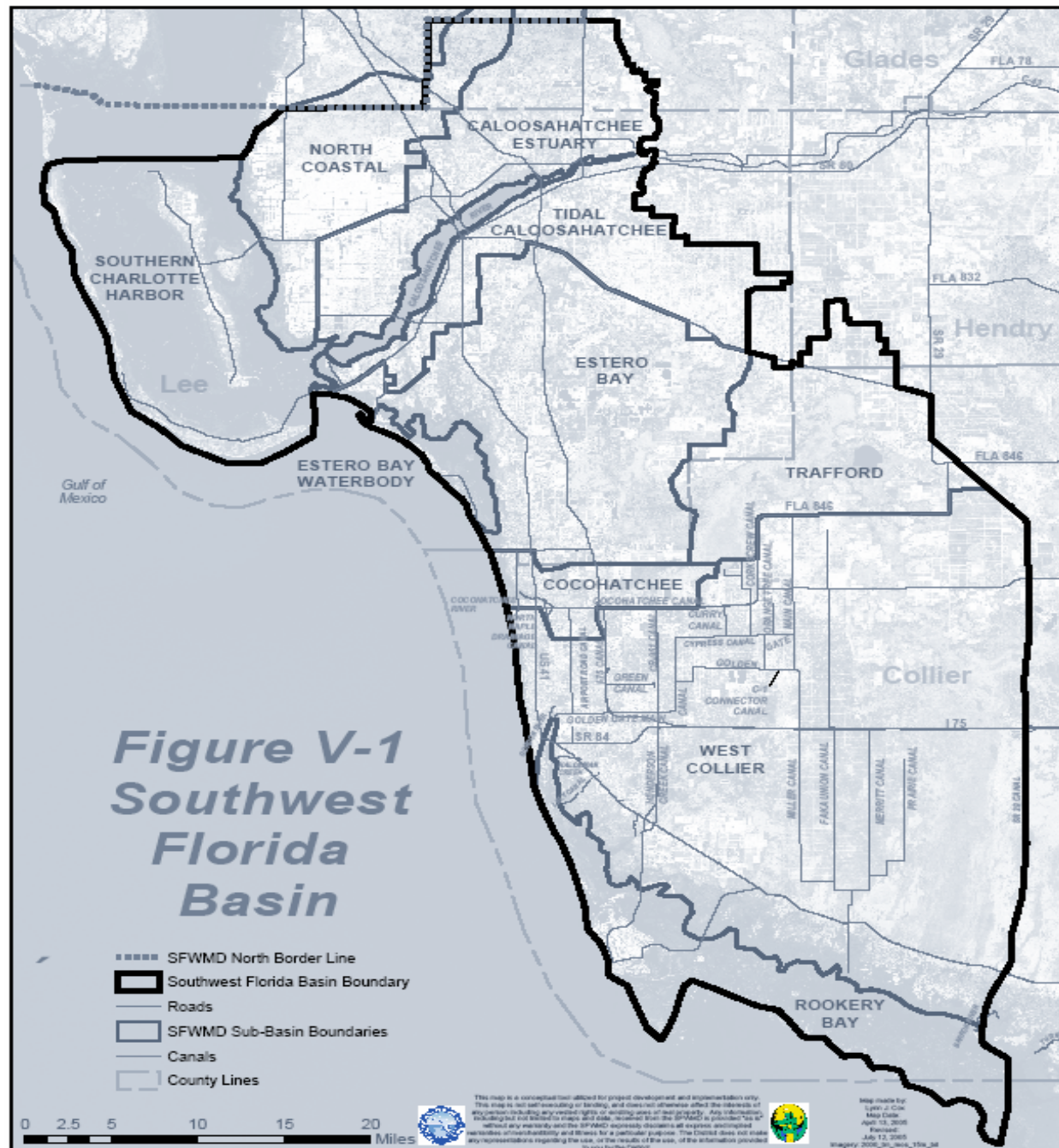
- District Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) criteria apply to projects throughout the District
- Basin rules establish supplemental criteria for specified basins to provide additional protection and minimization of adverse impacts to the water resources of the District (ie. C-51 Basin and Water Preserve Area Rule)

Background

- November 13, 2003, Conservancy of Southwest Florida filed a petition challenging the validity of the ERP water quality treatment criteria
- On February 16, 2004 the Petitioners and the District agreed to abate the challenge for one year while the District worked to develop a draft basin rule designed to enhance water quality treatment in the Southwest Florida region

Background

- District staff has been meeting on a monthly basis with the Conservancy and several other stakeholders to solicit input on basin rule development and implementation
- Meetings have resulted in list of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) and concept for a draft basin rule in the Southwest Florida (SW FL) region



Why a Basin Rule?

- Most projects in the SW FL region ultimately discharge to water bodies designated as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFWs) or identified as impaired by DEP
- District criteria mandates that projects do not cause or contribute to the degradation of OFWs or the continued impairment of impaired waters (Section 40E-4.301(1)(e), F.A.C.)

Why a Basin Rule?

- Currently, applications are reviewed and evaluated on a project by project basis for additional treatment measures to provide assurances that the project will not cause or contribute to the continued impairment of water bodies
- A basin rule would provide clear criteria regarding the reasonable assurances necessary to demonstrate that a project will not cause or contribute to continued impairment

Anticipated Benefits

- More certainty in the permit process
- Aids applicants, District staff and stakeholders in designing and reviewing projects
- Minimizes potential for healthy waters to become impaired

Basin Rule Concept

- Menu system for selecting pollutant source controls and BMPs to enhance water quality using a “treatment train” approach
- The “treatment train” includes site design source controls, conveyance and pre-treatment BMPs, and stormwater system design enhancements
- Intended to provide flexibility to incorporate BMPs that are appropriate for the type of project
- The basin rule will not apply to agricultural, public roadway or airport projects

Source Controls and BMPs

- Site Design Source Controls
 - Reduced Turf Coverage
 - Native Landscape Plantings
 - Side Slope Buffers
 - Stormwater Recycling
 - Rooftop Runoff
 - Pervious Pavement
- Conveyance & Pre-Treatment BMPs
 - Filter Strips
 - Vegetated Swales
 - Sediment Trap Structures
 - Dry Det/Ret Pre-Treatment
- Stormwater System Enhancements
 - Additional Detention Volume & Residence Time
 - Planted Littoral Shelves
 - Wetlands
 - Littoral Berms/Settling Basins/Phyto-Zones
 - Filter Marsh
 - Increased Flow Path
 - Chemical Treatment

Draft Rule Components

- Rule Text
- Table V-1
- Figure V-1

Additional Information

- SW FL Basin Rule Making Website:
- www.sfwmd.gov/org/reg/news/southwest_basin/southwest_basin_rulemaking.htm
- Contact: Damon Meiers
- dmeiers@sfwmd.gov
- (800) 432-2045, extension 6876
- or (561) 682-6876

Public Comments Requested

- Please submit written comments by August 17, 2005 to:
 - Damon Meiers
 - South Florida Water Management District
 - Environmental Resource Regulation Dept., MSC 4210
 - P.O. Box 24680
 - West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680
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